GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:315
ANSWERED ON:15.04.2002
SELF SUFFICIENCY IN AGRICULTURE
T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government to achieve self sufficiency in agriculture as well as agro-based industries;

(b) whether the subsidies amounting to US Dollar one billion were paid tofarmers in developed countries but the same could not be done in India because of lack of funds; and

(c) if so, the remedial steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH)

(a) to (c): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFFERED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.315 DUE FOR REPLY ON 15TH APRIL, 2002.

(a): The Government is making concerted effort to achieve self sufficiency inagriculture through implementation of various schemes and other fiscal and financial interventions. India has achieved self sufficiency in a number of agricultural items. The Government is also promoting agro based industries to boost value addition in agriculture.

(b)&(c): As per Organization for Economic Co-operationand Development (OECD) report, the support to agriculture in OECD countries increased from US $307 billion in 1986-88 to US $ 361 billion in 1999. Keeping this in view, India in its negotiating proposals for the on-going mandated negotiations under World Trade Organization Agreement on Agriculture has called for inclusion of all trade distorting domestic support measures in the calculations of the Total Aggregate Measurement of Support (AMS) which would be subjected to reduction commitments if above the de-minimis level. To safeguard the interests of Indian farmers the Government have put in place a suitable mechanism for monitoring of the imports of sensitive items and are committed to providing adequate protection to the domestic producers by resorting to various WTO compatible measures which include appropriate calibration of applied tariffs within the bound tariffs, imposition of anti- dumping, countervailing duties and safeguard action under certain specified circumstances.